

The decrease in East Thána is very probably due to village officers having put too liberal an interpretation on the term "free cattle." In West Thána it would appear that the fees are being collected with more circumspection than in the previous year. The falling off in the Panch Mabáls is attributed to the exclusion of "foreign" cattle in the early part of the year.

(3). *Miscellaneous Produce.*

147. Satisfactory arrangements were made during the year to carry out the instructions issued in Government Resolution No. 9846, dated 15th December 1892, to regulate the collection of minor forest products in the Thána and Surat districts. The proposals made by the Divisional Forest Officers were, as a rule, accepted *in toto* by Revenue Officers, and will hardly require any modification for a few years to come.

148. In Thána it was thought proper, having regard to local conditions and past results, to keep the exploitations of myrabolams, hirdas (*Terminalia chebula*), apta leaves (*Bauhinia racemosa*), toddy palm leaves (*Borassus flabelliformis*) and fruits and beheda nuts (*Terminalia belerica*) under effective control, leaving the collection of other products, such as jungle fruits, honey, wax, gum, karvi, &c., free and unrestricted to the wild tribes and people of forest villages. Further, these classes were permitted to collect apta leaves and fruits and leaves of brab trees for their *bond fide* own use; the latter products were given at the discretion of the Divisional Forest Officers only.

149. The value of the myrabolams farm has considerably diminished in value during the year, as the fruit produced by trees standing on occupied uplands has ceased to be a part of the forest revenue owing to Government in their Resolution No. 10087, dated 23rd December 1892, having reserved no fruit-bearing trees. The receipts in consequence fell from Rs. 6,020 in 1891-92 to Rs. 907 in 1892-93.

150. Of the two trees, apta (*Bauhinia racemosa*) and tembhurni (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), whose leaves are used as wrappers for cigarettes by the people generally, the latter has been so much damaged in the past during the process of plucking that it was considered desirable to put a stop altogether to the farming of its leaves, and in order to further improve its growth, mutilated specimens to be met within the coupes are no longer to be reserved as standards, as was the practice in former years, for the sake of its fruit. The tembhurni coppices fairly, and if the injured and deformed trees are properly cut and trimmed, and the leaves protected, it ought to yield good timber when it reaches the exploitable age. The main utility of the apta trees lies in its leaf, it being not valuable as timber. It is also very hardy, stands a good deal of knocking about, and does not suffer to the same extent as the tembhurni from harmful treatment. The demand for its leaves is already fairly large, and there is a prospect of its increasing in proportion to the diminished supply of tembhurni leaves, and, therefore, its exploitation has to be restricted.

151. The revenue arising from the farm of toddy palm leaves and fruit varies from Rs. 1,858 to Rs. 1,435, and has shown a tendency to increase. There can be no objection to reserve these products, especially as the *bond-fide* wants of the wild tribes and the people of forest villages are safeguarded.

152. The receipts from beheda nuts has hitherto been small, but the demand may greatly increase in future, as this product is an important one. Moreover, it is not used locally, and in the interest of the trees it is necessary that the collection should be kept under control.

153. In three talukas (Chikhli, Bulsár and Párdi) out of the four in the Surat Division the area under forests is very limited, and the condition of the country and the people so prosperous that it was not deemed advisable to apply the principles for regulating the collection of minor forest products laid down in the Resolution of Government quoted above. The Collector, Mr. Lely, conveyed his approval of this proposal in the following terms :—

"I have the honour to express my entire agreement that no concession should be made as to minor forest produce in the talukas of Chikhli, Bulsár and Pardi. The area of the

forests there is so small, and the circumstances of the people such as to justify the exercise of rigid conservancy."

154. In the Mándvi Táluka all minor products were allowed to be collected and removed free of charge, with the exception of mhowra flowers, by the wild tribes and people of forest villages. A fee of four annas a maund was imposed on this product, and permission to tap toddy trees within forest limits when solicited was granted on the payment of a rupee per tree.

155. The arrangements for regulating the collection and sale of minor products under the procedure laid down in the Resolution quoted above in the forests of the Panch Maháls and those leased from the Rájás in the Dángs were not completed when the year closed.

CHATER III.

GROSS YIELD AND OUTTURN OF FOREST PRODUCE.

DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS.

156. The following summary exhibits the quantity of timber and other forest produce worked out departmentally during the two years 1891-92 and 1892-93 :—

No.	Division.	Year.	IN CUBIC FEET.		IN NUMBER.	IN KHANDIS.
			Timber.	Firewood.	Bamboos.	Hirdas.
						Kh. mds. lbs.
1	East Thána ...	1891-92 ...	17,247	...	...	143 7 0
		1892-93 ...	32,550	20,376	...	30 13 12
2	West Thána ...	1891-92 ...	10,839	79,602	...	70 3 0
		1892-93 ...	1,245	4,714	...	9 11 0
3	Surat ...	1891-92 ...	1,76,665	18,491	...	.....
		1892-93 ...	77,685	...	3,000	.....
4	Panch Maháls ...	1891-92 ...	25,415	210,700	...	.....
		1892-93 ...	4,070	10,700	...	.....
	Total ...	1891-92 ...	230,166	308,793	...	213 10 0
		1892-93 ...	115,550	35,790	3,000	39 24 12

157. In the two Thána divisions, variations in the yield of timber and firewood do not call for any special remarks; as their extraction depends on the number of unsold coupes of the year, it is necessary to exploit for the convenience of the privileged classes at the instance of the Revenue Department.

158. In the Surat Division there was less timber worked out, as it was deemed necessary to limit the exploitation in the Dángs to such quantities as could be disposed of during the year from the Wághrech and other sale depôts without running the risk of overfeeding the markets.

159. Departmental operations in the Panch Maháls were suspended to prosecute vigorously the clearing of reserved wood from occupied and other lands. The yield of the year shown in the foregoing statement represents the quantity of produce derived from boundary-line clearances.

160. Bamboos were only cut by departmental agency to permit of floating operations being undertaken down the Ambika River from Waghál in the Dángs to the Wághrech depôt on the sea-coast.

161. The hirda crop of the year was the worst hitherto known, and consequently the quantity collected was much less than in the previous year.